

## THINGS THAT STAY

In his head  
there is snow.  
Snow, crippled birds and

torn plum leaves. Shadows of  
what could be broken,  
mirrors, certain shells.

These are the things that stay  
though the eyes that he lived in  
are dissolving.

Bones of a face. The  
lip shape  
falling. These disasters keep eating him.

But he sends word travelling  
against this dark  
water. Small boats from so far,

perfect and tough.  
As if to ease some terrible pieces of grief,  
as if the loss could grow roses.

-- Lyn Lifshin

Albany, New York

## SEARCH FOR THE CAUSE OF EVIL; HELD FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES ECSTATIC JOURNEYS

Priests, Shamans, Priestesses, males, females, and  
within each a variety of irrational forces.

PRIESTESS: A young birch tree is stripped of its lower  
branches, the branches are laid down to make a  
circle, a light-colored horse pleasing to the  
divinity is chosen by a Priest who entrusts it  
to one of the people, he is called HEAD HOLDER!  
(A priest emerges from the people, he shakes a  
birch branch over the animal's back to force its  
soul out, and fly to the god. He repeats the  
same gesture over the Head Holder for his soul  
to accompany the horse's soul. Rhythm and breath  
variations:)

FEMALE: It is not a sign of scientific distinction.